

THE TROJAN WAR

A Muse Mini-Myth
OR A REALLY BAD SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
by Nancy Kangas, art by Thor Wickstrom

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Hi! I'm Agamemnon,
King of the Greeks and Don't You
Forget It!



Hi! I'm Menelaus
Brother King to Agamemnon



PLEASE DON'T ASK ME
ABOUT HELEN.

Hi! I'm Helen
The Most Beautiful
Woman in the World
(FYI)

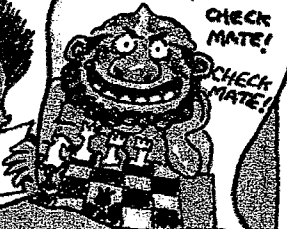


Hi! I'm Achilles
Handsome Greek
War Hero



ASK ME ABOUT
MY HEEL.

Hi! I'm Odysseus
Clever, Goal-Oriented
Greek Leader



CHECK
MATE!
CHECK
MATE!

Helen, a.k.a. the Face
that Launched a
Thousand Ships,
hatched from an egg
since one parent was a
swan. Don't ask.



Hi! I'm Priam
King of Troy



THEY LEFT ME OUT
OF THE STORY.

Hi! I'm Paris
A Cowardly Trojan Prince



Yikes!

Hi! I'm Hector
Gung-Ho Trojan Prince



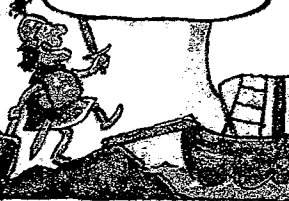
Hi! I'm Achilles's Mom.
I so wanted to make my
little darling immortal I
dunked him in the river
Stryx. Or wait—maybe I
fire-roasted him to
burn off his morality.
I dunno. Whatever
I did I missed a
spot on his heel.



Around 1194 B.C., which is
an exceedingly long time ago,
Paris, prince of Troy, fell in
love with Helen, the most
beautiful woman in the world.
As it happened, both Paris and
Helen were already married to
other people.



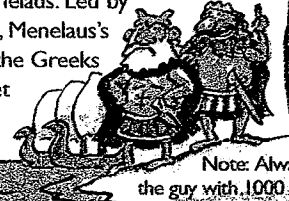
Oh well. I'm off to Greece
to kidnap Helen, and
bring her back to Troy!



Paris not only kidnapped Helen, he took a pile of booty
to boot. This does not sit well with Helen's
husband, Menelaus. Led by
Agamemnon, Menelaus's
big brother, the Greeks
set out to get
Helen back.



Hey,
I've got
1000 ships!
Let's go!



Note: Always invite
the guy with 1000 ships.

BIG DIGRESSION

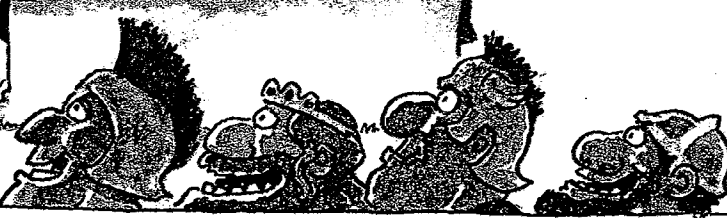
WHY DID PARIS DO SOMETHING THIS STUPID?

Pick me, and I'll give
you Helen, the most
beautiful woman
in the world!

It's a deal!

Aw, Paris.

I'm still waiting for the
swimsuit competition!



It all started with a drunken squabble
at a wedding. Paris was asked to judge
which of three goddesses was the
fairest of them all. All three tried to bribe
him, and Helen was one of the bribes.
Called the Judgment of Paris, this event
should really be called the Lack of
Judgment of Paris.

Hey, I'm a nut case! See me ruining my fields by sowing them with salt!

All the Greeks knew that to win, they needed Odysseus (Greece's smartest warrior) and Achilles (Greece's most muscular warrior). This turned out to be tricky, because neither wanted to fight and then die. Odysseus pretended to be insane and Achilles dressed like a girl.

Look, I'm pretending to be a girl by growing my hair long and living on an island of girls!

Both ruses failed and after many misadventures, the Greeks set out to destroy Troy.

But first, let's ransack Troy's neighbors and take all their stuff and enslave their women!

Agamemnon was forced to give back his captive, so he took Achilles's.

Oh FINE. But only if I get to keep Achilles's woman.

WHAT?! That's it I quit. And I hope those Trojans whup your butt.

Please Zeus, let the Trojans kick our ...

Achilles sulked in his tent, praying to Zeus that the Greeks would lose. The Greeks battled away—losing.

Achilles's friend Patroclus had an idea.

Duh, OK.

I'll wear your armor and make them shake in their boots.

Patroclus was supposed to just prance up and down, looking impressive, but, alas, he entered the fray—and was killed by Hector.

That made Achilles REALLY mad.

Revenge! I can only think of REVENGE!

He stopped sulking and started killing Trojan soldiers left and right—including his arch enemy, Hector.

I'm so mad I'm going to drag your dead body behind my chariot!

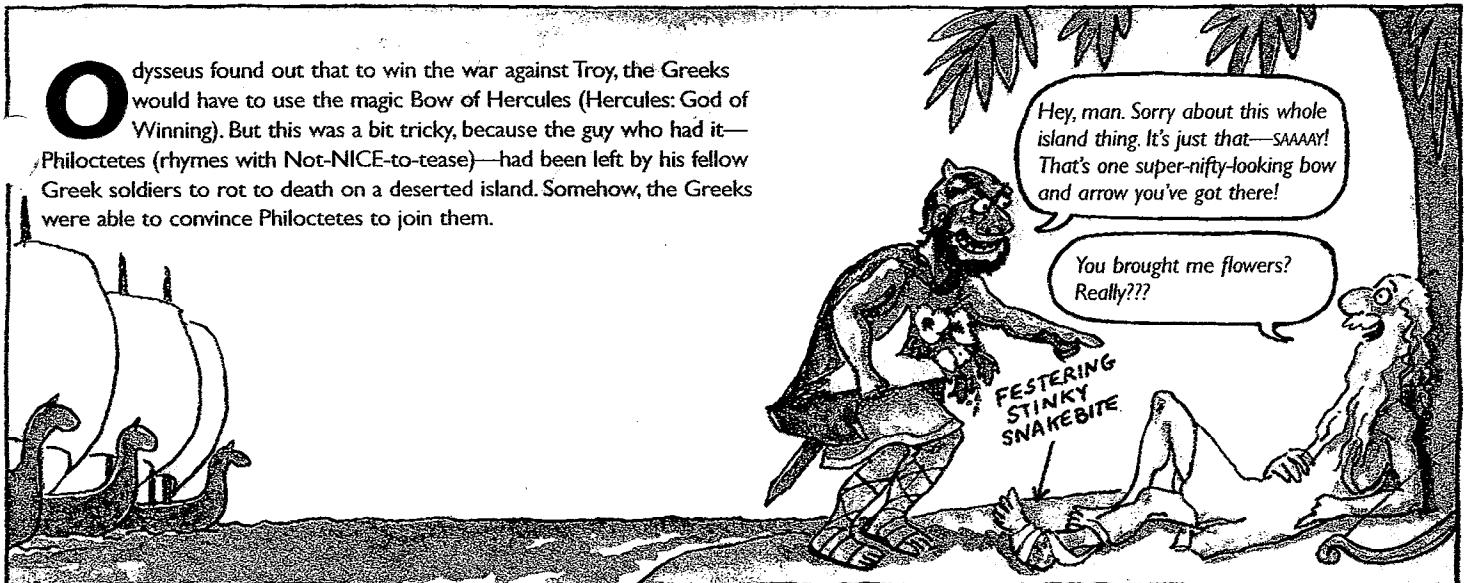
One after another, Greek and Trojan heroes bit the dust. Paris shot Achilles in the ankle—Mega Ouch—his only vulnerable spot.

Socks! Why didn't I wear socks!

Looks like I found his Achilles heel!

Whooo knew?

Odyseus found out that to win the war against Troy, the Greeks would have to use the magic Bow of Hercules (Hercules: God of Winning). But this was a bit tricky, because the guy who had it—Philoctetes (rhymes with Not-NICE-to-tease)—had been left by his fellow Greek soldiers to rot to death on a deserted island. Somehow, the Greeks were able to convince Philoctetes to join them.



Before long, Philoctetes used the bow to shoot a poison arrow into Paris, who fell dead.

Finally Odysseus had a bright idea.

Most of the Greek soldiers sailed out of view—except for one, who was a good actor.

HEY. Let's build a humongous wooden horse, hide a bunch of our guys in its belly, and tell the Trojans it's a nice present ...

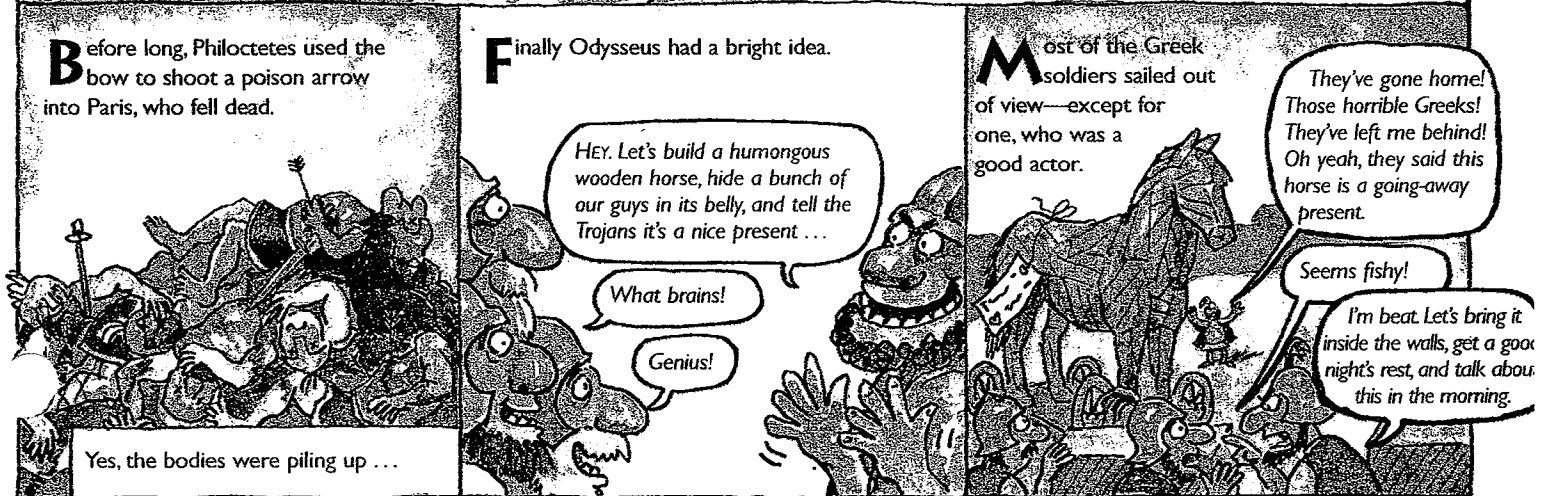
What brains!

Genius!

They've gone home! Those horrible Greeks! They've left me behind! Oh yeah, they said this horse is a going-away present.

Seems fishy!

I'm beat. Let's bring it inside the walls, get a good night's rest, and talk about this in the morning.



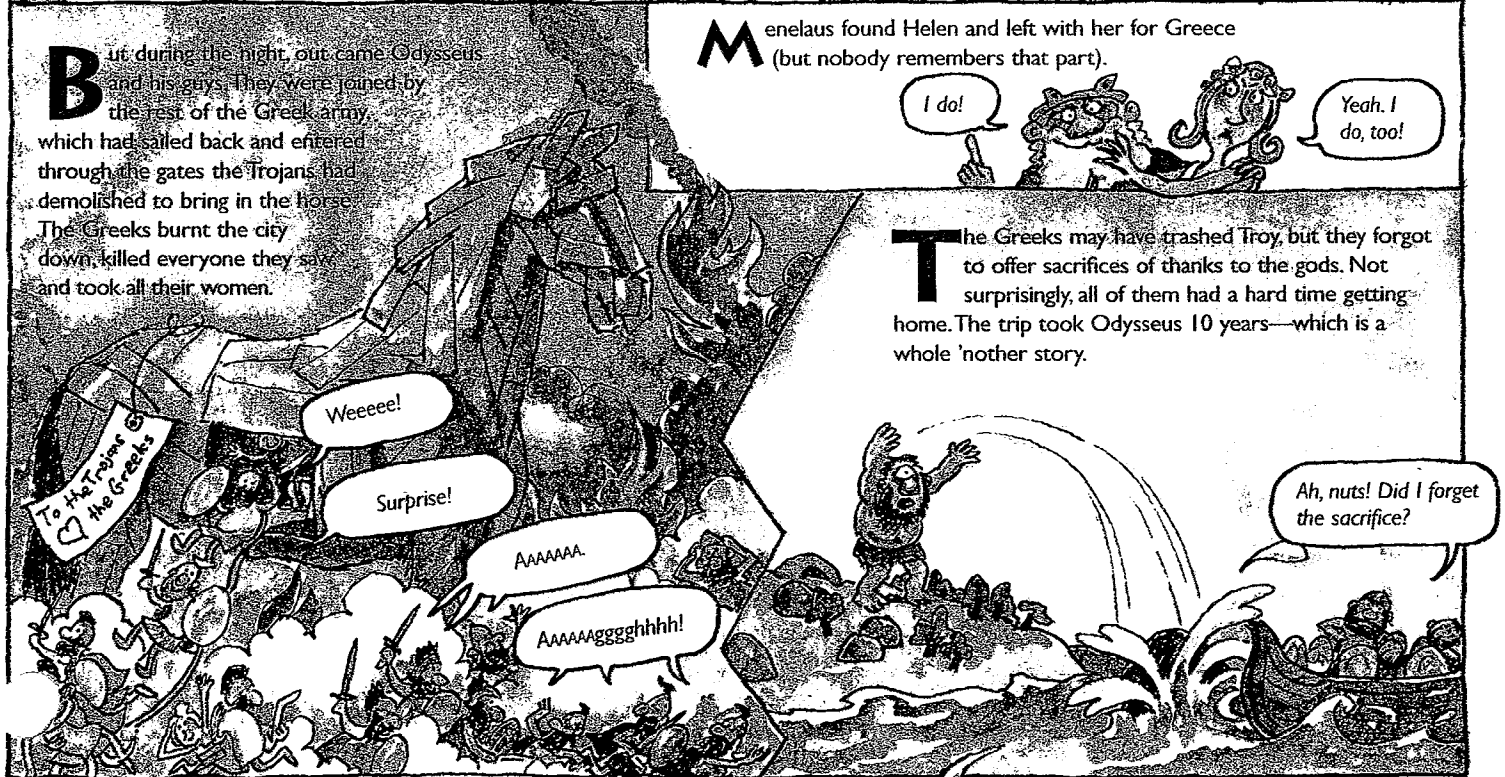
But during the night, out came Odysseus and his guys. They were joined by the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back and entered through the gates the Trojans had demolished to bring in the horse. The Greeks burnt the city down, killed everyone they saw, and took all their women.

Menelaus found Helen and left with her for Greece (but nobody remembers that part).

I do!

Yeah. I do, too!

The Greeks may have trashed Troy, but they forgot to offer sacrifices of thanks to the gods. Not surprisingly, all of them had a hard time getting home. The trip took Odysseus 10 years—which is a whole 'nother story.



*Pleeeeeeaaaaasssse don't write us about all the errors in this mini-myth. There are so many versions of this story you can't really get it wrong.